

In 1990 thanks to the efforts of Stephen Steere and the kindness of Mr.Cokayne of Slopers' five of us were privileged to have a visit to Tower Royal Works. This proved, as expected, to be a fascinating experience.

Shortly before we left, Mr. Cokayne presented each of us with a Specimen book containing specimen strikes of Sloper cancellations. Very few of them were true perfins i.e. designed to perforate postage or other stamps. They were intended for other uses such as crossing cheques, cancelling, acknowledging receipt etc. They appear to date from the 1870's and 1880's when Slopers were in full flow.

These books are, inevitably, in a rather fragile condition. They are, of course, irreplaceable, so on both these counts we feel that they cannot be lent by post. The Secretary has them and is very willing to answer any queries or search for any item, which might be of interest to individuals.

A sample of these perforations has been extracted and copies of the three A4 sheets can be obtained from Rosemary Smith at 50p (home), £1 (overseas).

Sloper also manufactured embossing seals and the Secretary was given one of these - that of Lombard Banking Limited. An impression of this will be with the sheets of perforations.

The illustrations on the next page are examples of the type of dies found in the Specimen books.

TRADE



MARK

RECEIVED with THANKS
John LONSDALE